Place of functioning of Head District Post Office at Begusarai in Bihar

118. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the head post office of Begusarai district in Bihar is functioning in a small rented accommodation for the last many decades though the number of employees and volume work have increased manifold;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the new building of Head Post Office of Begusarai could not be constructed because the State Government of Bihar has refused to allot land for that purpose;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken to get the land allotted; and

(e) by when government propose to provide a suitable new building for the Head Post Office at Begusarai in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The area available in the rented building for the Head Post Office is 7336.59 sq. ft. against assessed requirement of 10,300 sq. ft.

(c) and (d) The Commissioner Darbhanga, Bihar State, has been requested for allotment of land for construction of new Head Post Office building.

(e) The construction of building for Begusarai Head Post Office can be taken up after the land is acquired by the Department.

Newsitem regarding exodus of Staff from C-DOT

119. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 8ih April, 1993 under the caption "C-DOT is hit by brain drain';

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to prevent brain drain in the C-DOT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On an average about 20% of the Engineers leave C-DOT every year which is made up by new recruitment.

Some benefits to the staff within the existing guidelines are also under the consideration of the Government.

Phone tariff

120. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in The Times of India dated 13th April, 1993 captioned "Phone Tariff hike likely";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Hon'ble Minister has characterise the telephone tariff in India as the lowest;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the telephone tariff;

(d) what was the comparison made, giving details of tariff of other countries; and

(e) whether Government propose to take into account the deteriorating phone service while raising the tariffs ?